REGINA metro®

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Infrastructure cash in short supply: Wall

Some municipalities will have to do without PAGE 2

Stamkos bows out of Team Canada

Sniper's broken leg hasn't completely healed PAGE 13

BECKHAM'S HAVING A BALL

THE FORMER SOCCER STAR'S FINDING HIS SECOND CAREER AS FASHION TRENDSETTER A NICE CHANGE OF PACE PAGE 11

HAIL TO THE COACH

Saskatchewan Roughriders head coach Corey Chamblin holds the Annis Stukus Trophy as he is named the CFL coach of the year in Ottawa on Wednesday. Story, page 13. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CN, union's tentative deal nixes strike

Labour. Wall had urged feds to step in with potential walkout slated for this Saturday

CN Rail and the Teamsters union have reached a tentative contract agreement, averting a potential strike by 3,000 workers that could have come as early as this weekend.

The deal on Wednesday came shortly after the federal government announced it was preparing legislation to prevent the strike, following concerns in Saskatchewan that a walkout would severely hurt the province's agriculture industry.

CN and the Teamsters said late Wednesday that details of the three-year contract won't be released until it is ratified by union members.

Teamsters spokesman Stephane Lacroix described the negotiations as a "bit chaotic," but said CN came to the union with a series of proposals late in the day. He added he hopes union members will ratify the agreement this time.

Premier Brad Wall had called on Ottawa to step in before a strike even began.

In a letter to federal Transport Minister Lisa Raitt earlier on Wednesday, Wall said a strike would be unacceptable at a time when farmers are already having trouble moving a bumper crop of grain.

"Our agricultural producers deserve better than to be held hostage by one organization at a time when there is already tremendous frustration with the rail system's failure to serve their needs adequately," the premier wrote.

Lacroix noted that federal Labour Minister Kellie Leitch's announcement that Ottawa was preparing back-to-work legislation had likely moved things along.

The union's strike notice came days after Teamsters members, representing conductors, train employees and yard workers, rejected a tentative contract reached with CN last fall.

Leitch said a strike at Canada's largest railway would hurt farmers and the forestry sector.

CN said it transports about $250 billion worth of goods annually for a wide range of business, including natural resources and consumer goods.

A strike by competitor Canadian Pacific Railway in 2012 lasted just days before Ottawa legislated workers back on the job. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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NEWS 1

Not enough infrastructure cash to go around: Wall

Funding. Communities across the province are feeling the crunch

Premier Brad Wall says there will not be enough money to fund all the infrastructure projects that Saskatchewan municipalities want.

Mayors and councillors told the premier and cabinet ministers at the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association convention on Wednesday that infrastructure demands are high and costly.

Wall said the province is waiting to see what might come from the federal government's Building Canada Fund and will match any of that money.

"There will likely be projects for which municipalities have earnestly pointed out the need, that we simply won't have enough. We won't have that vast amount of dollars that are needed to deal with all of them," the premier said.

"There'll be some projects, I'm sure, that we wouldn't be able to fund. Without knowing specifics, I think that should be taken as a given."

Premier Brad Wall, left, addresses delegates about infrastructure issues and other matters at the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association conference at Evraz Place in Regina on Wednesday. Standing at the podium is Regina city Coun. Mike O'Donnell. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

The premier said infrastructure is a priority, but the government also has to balance the budget. It's scheduled to be tabled March 19.

A growth plan unveiled by the government in 2012 should, in the meantime, give communities a good idea on what projects should come first, such as sewer and water, Wall said.

Association president and Weyburn Mayor Debra Button is concerned about what projects might not go ahead.

"Municipalities across this province have been dealing with the infrastructure deficit for a lot of years and we've been prioritizing and we're getting to a crunch with a lot of our projects," she said.

Button said her city of Weyburn was told that it needed a new water reservoir before it could build a new subdivision. The reservoir will probably cost around $11 million.

Weyburn is feeling a housing crunch as oil and gas develops in the area and draws workers. Button said there's no guarantee the city will get money from the Building Canada Fund.

"So what are communities like Weyburn supposed to do if there is no help from the other orders of government? That's a huge tax increase for us."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hot topic: Sochi safety

With mounting security concerns about the upcoming Sochi Winter Olympics, Metro spoke to residents in the province's two largest urban centres to find out if they feel Saskatchewan athletes will be safe while they go for the gold.

SARAH TAGUIAM AND MORGAN MODJESKI
regina@metronews.ca

Aidan Searle, 24, chef, Saskatoon

"I think there's a lot of kerfuffle about nothing, really. The whole world has its eyes on the country so I don't think anything serious is going to happen — unless you're gay, I guess, but we'll see what happens."

Ashley Weiss, 23, homemaker, Regina

"I definitely think they have to be worried about it, of course. But then again, people like to lie and scare. Yeah, we should take it in consideration that they have to be careful, but you never really know if they will follow through. I'm not really big into the Olympics but I wish Canadians well."

Duane Flockhart, 54, unemployed, Saskatoon

"It's not just Saskatchewan athletes, but athletes from everywhere. There is a big concern about the safety and with the Saskatchewan athletes you have to worry. They say they're doing everything they can and I hope that's the case, that they will be safe."

Nesar Sikder, 44, restaurant worker, Regina

"I think there's nothing to be scared about. There are a lot of security systems in place there. It can happen anywhere, but I don't think anything bad will happen. I do hope they win, though!"

Paola Chiste, 41, research officer, Saskatoon

"I think if they ventured off the beaten path and were openly displaying some behaviours that perhaps the Russian people and the Russian government don't support, then I think they wouldn't be safe, but I think if they stayed within the parameters of the Olympic Village they will be safe."

Lyndon Rush. Bobsledder showing Rider Pride at Sochi Olympic Games

There's a little bit of Saskatchewan with bobsledder Lyndon Rush at the Sochi Olympics.

The 33-year-old from Humboldt, Sask., confessed Wednesday that he brought three pairs of Saskatchewan Roughriders socks with him to the Winter Games in Russia.

"They're just sort of in the rotation so I don't really wear them any time specific. But when they come up, I always smile putting on the Rider socks," he told a news conference prior to a training session.

Rush said with pride that he "really did grow up where everybody knew everybody."

"Now that I'm doing bobsleigh for Canada, the town is really excited about it," he said.

And not just about him. Humboldt's William Dutton is competing in long-track speedskating in Sochi.

Brianne Theisen-Eaton competed in the heptathlon at the London Olympic Summer Games.

Lyndon Rush THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rush and Theisen-Eaton have won Saskatchewan Sports Awards.

"Humboldt's really excited about it.... It makes us feel really special to be from there," Rush said.

"It's a lot of fun whenever we do get to go home because they treat us like rock stars. It's pretty neat."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ratio: 9.0

Provincial gov't sets mill rate factor limit

Saskatchewan has set a mill rate factor limit of 9.0 for all municipalities for this year, to reduce any unfair tax balance across all property classes.

While most municipalities have a ratio lower than 9.0, the new limit aims to support fairer taxation among commercial, industrial, residential and agricultural properties.

Government Relations Minister Jim Reiter said on Wednesday that several rural municipalities and a couple of towns in northwest Saskatchewan will be significantly affected.

"Those rural municipalities would have preferred we didn't do this and industry probably prefers that it would have been much lower," Reiter said. "But I think it was a pretty reasonable compromise." METRO

Judith Veresuk, executive director of the Regina Downtown Business Improvement District, says parking in the downtown core is getting more expensive as demand surges. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

Downtown parking prices on the rise

Nearly 'at capacity.'
Plans unveiled in city's 2014 preliminary budget include an increase to hourly parking meter rates to $2 from $1

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
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Parking in Regina's bustling downtown is getting more expensive as demand grows for limited spaces, says the head of the area's business improvement association.

"Parkades and surface parking lots are quickly coming to a point where they are at capacity," Judith Veresuk, executive director of the Regina Downtown Business Improvement District (RBID), told Metro on Wednesday.

As more lots fill up or increase their rates, Veresuk notes, a growing number of commuters is parking all day at on-street spots despite clearly stated two-hour limits.

She applauds plans unveiled in the city's 2014 preliminary budget to increase hourly parking meter rates to $2 from $1 as an effort to free up spaces for those making shorter visits downtown.

"We were finding that a lot of our on-street parking spaces were being used 10 hours a day by one single car," Veresuk explained.

"It really isn't the purpose of an on-street parking spot."

The pricier parking comes on the heels of a substantial hike in fees to use the popular Cornwall Centre parkade, where the full-day rate jumped to $18 from $10 early in January.

While acknowledging that hike might be tough to swallow for some, Veresuk said Regina's rates remain low compared with those at lots in other major cities' cores.

Still, she acknowledged the need for more downtown parking space to meet the demand.

Veresuk stressed that bolstering public transit is a "definite solution" to some of the area's parking woes.

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Vets. Medical discharges lead to 'area of unfairness'

Some Canadian soldiers given medical discharges find they don't qualify for benefits because Veterans Affairs uses different, more stringent criteria in an "unfair" process, the military ombudsman told a Senate committee Wednesday.

Pierre Daigle, whose term ends in a few weeks, testified many ex-soldiers have to fight to prove the conditions that made them ineligible to serve are a result of their service.

Once released, Veterans Affairs demands the ill and injured be subject to a separate assessment above and beyond whatever examination has been conducted at National Defence. For veterans, it can be a bureaucratic conundrum that often leads to a denial of benefits and a lengthy appeals process.

"This is an area of unfairness which needs to be looked at," Daigle said.

Daigle said he has had heard from former members directly, even though his mandate doesn't extend to Veterans Affairs, and told senators one individual described the process "as the equivalent of being pushed off a cliff." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arturo. Polar bear unlikely to make move to Winnipeg

Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Zoo says a polar bear living in an Argentinian zoo will probably have to stay there.

People have been protesting the treatment of Arturo, a polar bear at the Mendoza Zoo. With temperatures drastically warmer than what a polar bear is used to, and a lack of quality facilities for the bear, protesters say the bear is not doing well.

The Assiniboine Park Conservancy has been in talks with the zoo to get Arturo transferred to the Assiniboine Park Zoo, but the APC said Wednesday it's unlikely to happen.

Arturo the polar bear will likely have to stay in Argentina, where protesters say he's being mistreated. HANDOUT

"It does not appear that a Canadian import permit can be issued for Arturo," the APC said in a statement.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO IN WINNIPEG

Tories take on military procurement

New system, strategy. Plan aims to fix years of botched military purchases that have left government's fiscal reputation in tatters

The equipment needs of the Canadian military will be assessed with a more skeptical eye under the Harper government's new system of defence procurement.

The strategy, released Wednesday, puts greater emphasis on arms exports by developing policies to "support international sales opportunities."

The plan introduced by Public Works Minister Diane Finley and Defence Minister Rob Nicholson is meant to fix years of botched military purchases.

"Folks, I am pledging to you today that we are going to be managing things different and better," Finley told an audience of mostly defence contractors and lobbyists at an Economic Club of Canada breakfast.

A series of delays and failed plans to re-equip the military have been a recurring embarrassment for the Conservatives.

The auditor general's bruising 2012 assessment of the plan to buy 65 F-35 stealth fighters left the government's reputation for good fiscal management in tatters.

"We know there have been issues in the area of defence procurement and we're not going to just wish these problems away," Finley said. "Canadians have every reason to expect more from their government."

The new strategy introduces an independent challenge function within National Defence that will question the need for each major capability.

Affordability, especially in the face of declining defence spending, has been a key problem in many of the botched programs. The Conservatives have been repeatedly surprised by the price tags of some projects when it comes time to open the bids.

Another cornerstone of the plan will be consultation with defence industry contractors before projects go out the door. National Defence will begin posting an annual list of its equipment needs, beginning in June.

The new system will also see increased co-operation among Defence, Public Works and Industry officials under an umbrella secretariat at Public Works. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winter weather causes massive pileup on Ontario highway

Rescue workers attend the scene of a multi-vehicle pileup on Highway 401 westbound near Trenton, Ont., on Wednesday. Ontario provincial police said via Twitter that the accident was over a kilometre long and had closed down the highway. OPP said about 25 tractor trailers and 10 smaller vehicles were involved in the string of collisions as many roads in eastern and southern Ontario were covered in snow from the substantial snowstorm.

JUSTIN CHIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Environmentalists call government's plan to review pesticides a 'victory'

Environmentalists are declaring victory over a federal government announcement that it will conduct a health review of 23 pesticides, including a weed killer found everywhere from wheat fields to suburban lawns.

But they point out the decision comes only after several lawsuits were filed last summer and suggest it shouldn't take legal action to get Ottawa to follow the law.

"It is a victory in that sense, that we're getting them to do something they've never done before," said Elaine MacDonald of the environmental law group Ecojustice. "But we shouldn't have to sue them to get them to do it."

Last August, four lawsuits were filed over 29 chemicals, all of which Ecojustice said were banned in Europe. The federal government is obliged by law to review chemicals that are banned in any country belonging to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Health Canada had originally declined to do any studies. It said some of the chemicals had been recently examined and found to present acceptable risks. The agency added that it wanted to consider reasons for the European bans before conducting studies on the others.

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency quietly reversed that decision in a website posting dated Dec. 30.

"The (agency) … has determined that this subsection's criteria have been met, namely that a member country of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development prohibits all uses of this active ingredient for health or environmental reasons."

Four of the six chemicals Canada won't review were found to be still in limited European use, restricted to functions such as anti-flea dog collars. The final two are not used in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver

Court sees video of 'Good Samaritan' beating during Stanley Cup riot

A man dubbed a Good Samaritan because of his efforts to fend off looters during Vancouver's Stanley Cup riot has told the trial of four of his alleged attackers that he suffered injuries for nearly three weeks following the attack.

Robert MacKay was assaulted on June 15, 2011, outside a department store in Vancouver. In a video that was played in court, a group of people are seen grabbing MacKay and punching him until he is knocked to the ground.

Ioannis Kangles, Michael MacDonald, Carlos Barahona Villeda and David Leonati are charged with assault and for participating in a riot. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec

Family drama claims the life of 11-year-old girl

An 11-year-old girl has become the fourth person to die in a family drama that police believe was triggered by a possible love triangle.

Beatrice Godin died Tuesday night after being in critical condition since the weekend. She was one of the two daughters of Martin Godin, who police say is the prime suspect in the deaths.

Provincial police say the 54-year-old man was taken to hospital Saturday night after the slayings of three people, including his other daughter, 13-year-old Medora.

The other people who died were Godin's ex-wife, Nancy Samson, and her boyfriend, Benoit Daigle.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rome. United Nations report urges Vatican to come clean on abuse

Pope Francis greets the faithful as he arrives for his weekly general audience at the Vatican on Wednesday. ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Vatican "systematically" adopted policies that allowed priests to rape and molest tens of thousands of children over decades, a UN human-rights committee said Wednesday, urging the Holy See to open its files on pedophiles and bishops who concealed their crimes.

The UN committee severely criticized the Holy See for its attitudes toward homosexuality, contraception and abortion and said it should change its own canon law to ensure children's rights and their access to health care are guaranteed.

The Vatican promptly objected and its UN ambassador accused the committee of having betrayed the international body's own objectives by allowing itself to be swayed by pro-gay ideologues.

The report, which took the Vatican by surprise in its harsh tone, puts renewed pressure on Pope Francis to move decisively on the abuse front and make good on pledges to create a Vatican commission to study sex abuse and recommend best practices to fight it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sochi security beefed up

Winter Olympics.
Russia's law-and-order president not taking terrorist threat lightly

President Vladimir Putin pointed Wednesday to the Boston Marathon bombings as a big reason for the intense security around the Winter Olympics starting in Russia this week.

The Chechen brothers accused of the 2013 Boston attacks hailed from just a few hundred kilometres away from the Olympic sites at Sochi.

Twin bombings in another southern Russian city in December have heightened terrorism fears around the Sochi events.

Intelligence agencies from multiple countries will be working together around the clock at a special headquarters in Sochi, Putin said while visiting Olympic sites Wednesday.

"In the U.S., people died at a marathon, during the G8 there were terrorist acts in the London subway," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin signs a wall at the Coastal Cluster Olympic Village on Wednesday in Sochi. ALEXEI NIKOLSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putin rose to power and popularity 15 years ago on law-and-order, hard-on-terrorism policies that critics say go too far and suppress human rights. He had long warned the West about the dangers posed by Chechen rebels, and urged closer security co-operation with Washington after the Boston Marathon attacks.

Putin has made security central to the Olympic project, in which he has taken an unusual personal interest.

Despite criticism and higher costs than any Olympics in history, Putin said Wednesday that "Russia is ready to host the Games." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Backlash

Protests over anti-gay laws intensify

A U.S. Olympic sponsor and a UN panel condemned a Russian law criticized as a stifler of gay rights as protests took place around the world Wednesday.

The law signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin in July bans pro-gay "propaganda."

Detractors have pressed the International Olympic Committee and its corporate sponsors to denounce the law and call for its repeal. One of those sponsors, McDonald's, was targeted Wednesday by protesters in London and Paris. Protests also took place in St. Petersburg, Russia; New York, Jerusalem and Rio de Janeiro. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Examiner: Hoffman's autopsy is inconclusive

Four people were taken into custody on drug charges after police investigating Philip Seymour Hoffman's death executed search warrants, two people with knowledge of the investigation said on Wednesday.

The medical examiner's office said more tests are needed to determine what killed the Oscar-winning actor.

Police believe Hoffman may have died from a drug overdose, though his death is being investigated as suspicious pending a more definitive ruling by the medical examiner.

There was no timetable for Hoffman's autopsy to be finished, said medical examiner's office spokeswoman Julie Bolcer, who declined to discuss the pending tests. Toxicology and tissue tests are typically done in such cases.

Hoffman was found dead Sunday with a needle in his arm. Tests found heroin — but no traces of the potent synthetic morphine additive fentanyl, which intensifies the high and has been linked to 22 suspected overdose deaths in Pennsylvania — in samples from at least 50 packets in his apartment, law enforcement officials have said.

A couple adds to the flowers placed outside the apartment of actor Phillip Seymour Hoffman in New York on Tuesday. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The four people were taken into custody Tuesday night after police executed search warrants at several city apartments based on a tip from a confidential source that they may have supplied Hoffman with drugs, according to two people with knowledge of the investigation. They spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because investigators have not obtained evidence to corroborate the reported connection.

The New York Police Department hasn't officially announced a connection between the arrests and the Hoffman investigation.

Police say undisclosed quantities of heroin and marijuana were found in three apartments in a Manhattan building. The four suspects, three of whom live in the building, face charges of criminal possession of a controlled substance. Two also face charges of criminal use of drug paraphernalia. They were awaiting arraignment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No need to start hogging all the bacon

Oink, oink. Price of pork likely to rise only slightly due to virus sweeping North America: Experts

SCOTT TAYLOR
Metro in London, Ont.

The virus that's rippling its way across Ontario pig farms could hit pork lovers' pocketbooks if the spread continues.

While no one's forecasting a blockbuster spike in bacon prices anytime soon, each new case of the ever-so-charmingly-named porcine epidemic diarrhea pushes the chances one step closer.

Prices have already seen a bit of a nudge thanks to the virus's spread in the U.S., which has been battling the bug since the spring. There, more than 2,600 cases of the virus have been confirmed in 23 states, according to the latest data from the American Association of Swine Veterinarians.

By June, bacon in urban U.S. supermarkets had jumped to nearly $5 a pound, about 15 per cent higher than the same time in 2012, according to government data. End-of-year data shows a 20 per cent price jump per pound, although some of that can be attributed to the bacon craze that swept North America in 2013, sources have said.

Canada's situation was beginning to look more dire Wednesday with two new confirmed cases.

But experts say the price in Canada is not likely to rise as much as in the U.S.

Aw, these little piggies might be adorable, but the not-so-adorable porcine epidemic diarrhea could push pork prices up. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Market Minute

DOLLAR 90.25¢ (+0.01¢)

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OIL $97.38 US (+$0.19)

GOLD $1,256.90 US (+$5.70)

Natural gas: $5.14 US (-$0.14)
Dow Jones: 15,440.23 (-5.01)

Community input

Feds to tighten cell-tower rules

Ottawa says it is tightening laws governing construction and placement of new cellular antenna towers to require consultation with communities on all commercial installations, regardless of height.

The changes update the government's 2008 policy that mandated consultation only when companies planned a tower taller than 15 metres.

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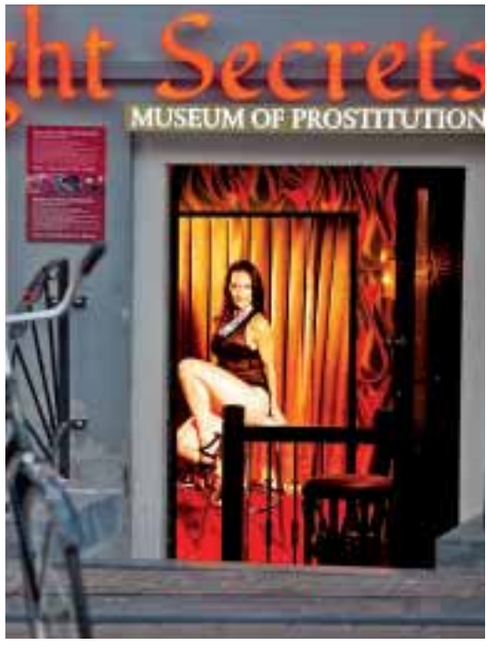

Hands-off learning

A hologram of a beckoning prostitute is shown at the entrance of the "Red Light Secrets" museum in Amsterdam on Tuesday. On any given evening, thousands of tourists stroll down the narrow streets of Amsterdam's famed Red Light District, gawking at ladies in lingerie who work behind windows, making a living selling sex for money. Now a small educational museum is opening in the heart of the district that aims to show reality from the other side of the glass. Organizer Melcher de Wind says the Red Light Secrets museum is for those who want to learn more about how the area works without actually visiting a prostitute. EVERT ELZINGA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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HEEL EDGE OF TECH DEFENDS EBOOKS

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

I'm not really on the cutting edge when it comes to technology. I've spent a lot of my life living in the past (also known as New Brunswick), so I'm more like the back part of the knife that you push on when you're slicing.

Google tells me that part is called the spine, which still gives me too much credit, society-wise. The middle part is the heel. That seems about right.

I am on the cutting heel of technology.

So when I say that I believe ebooks are far superior to regular books and will one day replace them, don't take it as a bold pronouncement of Things to Come. Take it as a sign that smarter people than me have likely been saying it for years, and now that it's occurred to me it must be more mainstream than Leno.

Until recently I was among those who felt that paper books were unquestionably superior. Ebooks weren't great when they first hit the market, which gave us traditionalists cover as we pointed out that the battery or lights or selection or cost weren't very good.

It was like we looked at the Wright brothers' rickety plane at Kitty Hawk and scoffed: "No way that thing is going to get 350 passengers from Vancouver to Hong Kong on an overnight flight. What were they thinking?"

But now that ebooks have long-life batteries, easy-to-read screens, excellent selection and good prices, people in the pro-book camp have resorted to a couple of paperweight arguments.

The first, from people who have not tried ebooks on principle, usually involves what might to go wrong — like deleting a book or running out of power. These problems are so unlikely that it's like saying a horse is preferable to a car because horses never accidentally deploy their airbags.

The second, more popular argument is that there's "just something" about books. The smell, the feel, the heft, the look. We are judging the book by its cover, and we'll caress it and smell it like it's Ryan Gosling or Scarlett Johansson, thank you very much. All well and good, except there is nothing intrinsically pleasant about the feel or smell of a book. I like those sensations too but it's only because I associate them with book reading and therefore feel positively about them. If it was all about heft we should just carry around five-pound Ps and Qs. "Don't mind these, they're fun to lift." (Besides, my e-reader has a cover that smells just fine.)

Paper books aren't going anywhere, any more than globes and vinyl records are, and all reading is good. But I think books will become curios and hobby pieces while ebooks will dominate the mainstream completely.

I've thought of starting a business that sells blank paper books (one per household) so families will still have something to grope and sniff as they read, but I'm sure someone else has already thought of it. So said the heel.

I suppose I could take a page out of their book but, well, you know.

ZOOM

Don't have a cow, man — have two

ALL PHOTOS 2014 SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Cattle race carnage gets a photo finish

Yongsheng Zheng's photograph gives us a glimpse into Indonesia's adrenaline-fuelled festival of Pacu Jawi (cow racing).

The annual event sees brave jockeys grab the tails of a pair of cows and skate across muddy rice fields barefoot while balancing on a wooden plank.

The Minangkabau people of West Sumatra have been marking the event for 400 years to celebrate the yearly end of the rice harvest season.

Zheng's photo made the World Photography Organisation's shortlist of the 2014 Sony World Photography Awards.

Pictured to the right are a few more of the nominees.

METRO

Sophie Gamand's Wet Dog is a series of portraits of dogs in mid-bath, photographed half a second before they shake their fur.

Louise Porter submitted this photograph of young men from the Kara tribe in Ethiopia.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Did you know that there are people in Sochi aside from reporters cracking wise about a half-finished insta-city? There are athletes there too, and they seem much happier to be there. Follow these Canadians on Instagram to see for yourself.

CONTRIBUTED

Charles Hamelin:

A three-time medallist short-track speedskater who also happens to excel at the Maniacal Selfie In A Crowd event. He even got close enough to snap a photo of Vladimir Putin joining a Japanese athlete for a dining hall selfie. The caption calls him Vladimir Poutine. A genuine mistake or a potentially dangerous gag? Neither? Charles Hamelin: Enigma. (/charleshamelin)

Travis Gerrits:

A freestyle skier boasting a silver medal from the 2013 FIS World Championships, Gerrits represents Canada in one of the Games' most photogenic sports. And if soaring skiers frozen in time doesn't sound like your kind of thing, he also has a very handsome dog. (/travisgerrits)

Canadian Olympic Team:

Since things have yet to officially kick off, the official feed is a patriotic mix of athletes looking chuffed in shiny new Olympic merchandise or athletes looking chuffed after success in Vancouver. But once the festivities are on, it'll be hard to beat the access. (/cdnolympicteam)

Twitter

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A petition has been started to remove a lifelike sculpture of a man in his underwear from a woman's college campus in the U.S. Should Sleepwalker stay or go?

@PorcelainTear I can understand why that such statue would cause a stir. It looks very real & somewhat disturbing for that reason

Comments

RE: How Far Would You Go For Free Breast Implants? Published online Feb. 5, 2014

If you have left over money, please donate to sick and starving kids around the world, not for shallow people who only care for their look.

Kim, posted to metronews.ca

"I would feel more confident" — for a month or two, that is, until you find something else about your body that makes you insecure.

Al_Gee, posted to metronews.ca

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metro

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Brent has No Clue when he'll be a movie star, Butt he hopes it's soon

Big screen jump. Funnyman, who is currently touring Canada, stars in 'grittier and darker' new comedy movie

BACKSTAGE PASS
Jacob Morgan
regina@metronews.ca

Leading up to the release of his first feature film, Brent Butt is doing something he hasn't done since the debut of his hit TV show Corner Gas.

He's taking his stand-up routine on tour. "I wouldn't want to live life on the road like I used to," Butt told Metro prior to his stop on Feb. 7 and 8 at Casino Regina. "But it's fun to get out and haul yourself across the country and do multiple shows in a short amount of time again. It feels good."

The Saskatchewan-born comedian isn't just returning to some of his old practices. With his movie, No Clue, arriving in theatres next month, he has had to learn a range of new tricks. For one thing, Butt said No Clue is darker and grittier than his earlier work "I suddenly found myself in scenes where my life is on the line and there is real danger," he said. "I've never been in a situation … where I had to play that."

Although No Clue is a murder mystery, Butt said it should still appeal to his longtime fans.

"My sense of humour is there," he said. "I wanted this to be realistic and true to the genre and have real stakes, and then it just kind of happens to be funny because the main character says funny things."

Butt added that his American co-stars were up to the task of meeting his equally quirky and serious vision. He previously worked with David Koechner of Anchorman fame on the live circuit, and he said Amy Smart got the part because of her dexterity as an actor.

"We needed somebody who could play both those roles and somebody who had a bit of chemistry with me," said Butt. Now that Butt is Almost a Movie Star, as the title of his tour indicates, he has no immediate plans to return to the small screen. But Canadians may still see his face in their living rooms again in the future.

"If I could just write the script of my life it would be always doing stand-up, being involved in television and every couple years getting to do a movie. I would have the world by the tail if I could do that," added Butt.

His perfect future

"If I could just write the script of my life it would be always doing stand-up, being involved in television and every couple years getting to do a movie."
Comedian Brent Butt

Details

• **Dates.** Brent Butt will be performing on Feb. 7 and Feb. 8 at Casino Regina.

Comedian Brent Butt is taking his stand-up act on the road and on Feb. 7 and 8 he will be stopping at Casino Regina. Butt is the star, writer and producer of a new feature film called No Clue, which will be out in theatres on March 7. CONTRIBUTED

SCENE

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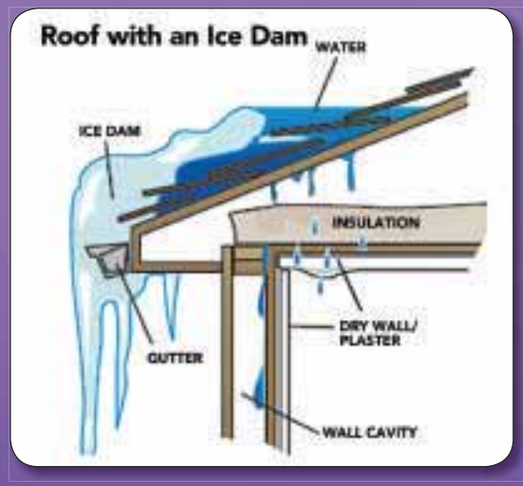

An ice dam can occur when snow accumulates on the roof of a house with inadequate insulation. Heat conducted through the insufficient insulation warms the roof and melts the snow on those areas of the roof that are above living spaces, but does not melt the snow on roof overhangs. Eventually, ice accumulates along the eave and in the gutter. Snow that melts later cannot drain properly through the ice on the eave and in the gutter, resulting in leaks which lead to damaged ceilings, walls, roof structures and insulation. There is no better time to protect your home.

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Clay Aiken. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

American Idol runner-up Clay Aiken puts career on hold to run for Congress

Former American Idol runner-up Clay Aiken is running for Congress in North Carolina.

Aiken said Wednesday he'll seek the Democratic nomination for the seat currently held by Rep. Renee Ellmers.

The 35-year-old Aiken has been a special education teacher in Wake County. He says he decided to put his entertainment career on hold and seek to represent the state's 2nd Congressional District.

He says he considers Washington to be dysfunctional and will focus on jobs and the economy, as well as the importance of education.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cher skips wedding over feud with son

Cher's ongoing feud with her son, Elijah Blue, and his new wife, Angie King, shows no sign of abating and recently resulted in Cher missing their wedding and excluding them from family holiday activities, Blue tells the National Enquirer.

"I've always been the black sheep of my family. We have lots of ups and downs, and now isn't the best time," says Blue, who married King in early December. "It's like a Mexican standoff, but we have a history."

The latest spat apparently results from an October falling out between Cher and her new daughter-in-law that prompted the Burlesque star to kick the pair out of her Malibu home.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Selena sneaks off to rehab — for 'emotional issues'

Selena Gomez reportedly snuck away for a two-week stay at an Arizona rehab facility, though her rep insists to Radar Online it was for emotional issues.

"Selena voluntarily spent time at (Dawn at the) Meadows, but not for substance abuse," her rep says, though other sources insist the former Disney star has been "partying very hard" in the months leading up to her secret stay. "With fame came a partying lifestyle," says a source, while another adds that ex-boyfriend Justin Bieber probably wasn't helping matters. "Selena came to understand just what a bad influence Justin had been on her life," the second source says. "I don't know whether Justin pushed her to drug use, but amongst their close-knit group of friends, smoking was commonplace. Justin and Selena would smoke marijuana together regularly." METRO WORLD NEWS

Twitter

@TheRock
They sleep. We grind. #NoSnoozeButtonDammit

@ElizabethBanks
I promised you immaturity on @TheDailyShow, and I believe I delivered.

@SaraKSilverman
When I search "Basketball sneakers, women" on @Amazon all that comes up is a high-heel sneaker wedge

Beckham gets a kick out of the fashion business

Let's talk about Becks. Whether you know him for his athletic skill or naked torso doesn't really matter at this point. David Beckham's empire is growing and no one is going to bring him (or his boxer briefs) down

Everybody knows who David Beckham is, either from his career as a football star or as the fashion icon and trendsetter he has become.

Metro Sweden's fashion editor Martin Hansson met David Beckham in New York to talk about the new collaboration with the Swedish fashion giant that premiered during the Super bowl weekend.

What has it been like to go from football player to a fashion icon?

I have always been very interested in clothes and style.

One day I love wearing a really tailored suit and the next day I like wearing what I'm wearing today: a pair of casual jeans and a sweater.

The opportunity to, in collaboration with H & M, produce an underwear collection that reflects my personal style feels natural and in tune with the times.

I dare you to deny that this man makes undies look good.
METRO WORLD NEWS

Your new collection, David Beckham for H & M, has been increased and is now aimed at younger boys as well. What message would you like to send to them?

Family first

Victoria loves the pictures and just thinks it's fun. But my sons like the exposure most of all and think it's great to see their daddy everywhere.
David Beckham on H&M campaign

I would like to tell them to go for their passion, work hard and stay focussed. I have always given 100 per cent in everything I do, both in football and in fashion. If you work hard enough and have fun at the same time there is a chance that you'll reach your dreams.

How does your wife Victoria feel about seeing you half naked on billboards and on TV all over the world?

(Laughs) Victoria loves the pictures and just thinks it's fun. But my sons like the exposure most of all and think it's great to see their daddy everywhere. I often wear the clothes from the new collection at home so they recognize it.

If you could look into your future, what do you hope to see?

I want to continue working with all that I'm doing today but also with new projects. Because I've played football the past 22 years it is refreshing to do something completely different now.

Get to know David

THE FACTS

Name: David Beckham

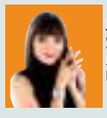
Age: 38

In the news: Has designed a new collection for H & M and is seen in a large campaign that premiered at the Super Bowl this weekend.

Lives: In Notting Hill, London

Family: Married to Victoria Beckham, four children.

Twitter



JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

With my gorgeous makeup artist Kris Wares @Chanel who always makes me feel sooooo good! Prepping for @Cafawards #FUN

Moved to be celebrated in my own backyard! Thanks to my Canadian fashion family--for all your passion. @Cafawards

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Heather

Age: 29

Occupation: Freelance writer

What she's wearing: H&M scarf, Top Shop jacket, Gap shirt, BDG pants, LK Berlin bag and Top Shop shoes.

Her inspiration: The weather!

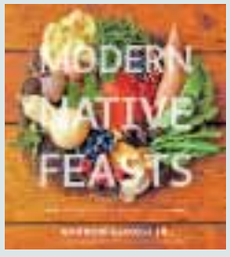
THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM – AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

Rich Oysters Rockefeller goes First Nations

This recipe makes 12 oysters (two to six servings, depending on how large they are and much your guests like oysters). BOTH PHOTOS TRACEY KUSIEWICZ OF FOODIE PHOTOGRAPHY (FOODIEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM)

Cookbook of the Week

Native eats for the 21st century



Full of healthy North American fare, Modern Native Feasts by Andrew George Jr. updates tradition for the 21st century.

Native American cuisine comes of age in this elegant, contemporary collection that reinterprets and updates traditional Native recipes with modern, healthy twists.

Andrew George Jr. was head chef for aboriginal foods at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. His imaginative menus include Three-Game Meatballs, Seafood Chowder, Butternut Squash and Pear Ravioli, Clam Chowder, Saskatoon Berry-Stuffed French Toast and more. METRO

"I use this recipe to teach Aboriginal students a classical method of preparing seafood," writes Andrew George Jr. in his book Modern Native Feasts. "Using stinging nettles, dandelion greens, or sorrel instead of traditional spinach, gives a new twist to this dish"

1. Preheat broiler to high.

2. In frying pan, melt butter and sauté celery, onions, garlic, parsley, greens, and dash of Pernod. Stir constantly for about 3 minutes. Remove from heat.

3. In a blender, combine greens mixture with bread and process for about 30 seconds. Using an oyster knife, twist open shells and remove oysters. In a large bowl, toss oysters with 1 tbsp Pernod. Drain oysters and reserve liquid. Remove any shell fragments. Discard top shells, clean and dry bottom shells.

4. Line a baking tray with rock salt and place oyster shells on top. Place 1 oyster into each shell and spoon reserved liquid onto each. Spoon crumb mixture on top, completely covering each oyster. Broil for 1–2 minutes, until topping bubbles. Arrange oysters on a serving dish and garnish with sprigs of parsley and lemon wedges. Season oysters to taste with salt and/or Tabasco sauce. **RECIPES EXCERPTED FROM MODERN NATIVE FEASTS: HEALTHY, INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE CUISINE BY ANDREW GEORGE JR. (PUBLISHED BY ARSENAL PULP PRESS, 2013).**

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup (60 ml) unsalted butter
- 1 celery stalk, finely sliced
- 2 green onions, finely sliced
- 1 garlic clove, finely minced
- 1 tbsp finely chopped parsley
- 1 cup (250 ml) finely chopped stinging nettles, dandelion greens, or sorrel leaves
- dash Pernod, or other anise-flavoured liqueur
- 2 slices fresh white bread, crusts removed, torn into pieces
- 12 fresh oysters in shell
- 1 tbsp Pernod
- rock salt, for serving
- 12 lemon wedges, to garnish
- 12 parsley sprigs, to garnish
- salt, to taste
- Tabasco sauce, to taste

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

Be careful

Take care when opening oysters. Protect your hand by wearing an oyster glove or covering a knife with a towel.

This recipe from Modern Native Feasts serves two.

Toody Ni Juniper Duck

1. Preheat broiler to high.

2. Season duck with salt and pepper and place, skin side up, on a rack in a broiling pan.

3. In a small saucepan on medium-high heat, sauté shallots and juniper berries in oil. Deglaze pan with gin and red wine. Add stock and simmer for about 20 minutes, until liquid is reduced by half. Pour sauce over duck and broil for five minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 375 F (190 C) and baste duck with sauce. Roast for 10 minutes, until duck is cooked to medium rare. Arrange on two plates and spoon sauce over duck.

Ingredients

- 2 6-oz (175-g) boneless duck breasts
- salt, to taste
- ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 large shallot, chopped
- 1 tbsp crushed juniper berries
- 2 tsp canola oil
- 1 tbsp juniper gin
- 1/3 cup (80 ml) red wine
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) duck or chicken stock
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh sage

For your phone

The Best Caesar (iPhone; free)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

This is just one recipe, passed down from father to son, and presented with meticulous devotion across 60 beautiful step-by-step pages.

It is gift-wrapped with confidence, a shopping list, and a story.

Hockey

Stamkos ruled out for Olympics

Steven Stamkos will not play for Team Canada at the Sochi Olympics after tests revealed Wednesday that his broken right leg is not completely healed.

Tampa Bay Lightning doctors said they couldn't clear him to play after examining his most recent CT scan and will re-evaluate his condition again in two to three weeks.

It's a big blow for the 23-year-old, who had been optimistic earlier this week that he might be able to play by as soon as Saturday.

"Today is obviously very disappointing for me," Stamkos said in a release. "I honestly believe that we did everything possible in order to have my injured leg ready in time for the Olympics, but I realize you can't force healing. I know, in the best interest of my long-term health, I cannot represent Canada in Sochi, as much as I would like to."

Lightning general manager Steve Yzerman, who is also Team Canada's executive director, said Stamkos "should not be participating in game action at any time in the near future."

"Although the doctor was very pleased to this point with the healing process, he explained that the callus surrounding the fracture site is not 100 per cent consolidated, and Steven will not be cleared to play in a game until that happens," said Yzerman. "It was a pretty clear-cut decision, no grey areas at all."

Hockey Canada did not immediately announce a replacement for Stamkos, though Claude Giroux, Lightning teammate Martin St. Louis and James Neal figured to be the leading candidates.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Steven Stamkos GETTY IMAGES FILE

Roughriders head coach Corey Chamblin was named the CFL coach of the year in Ottawa on Wednesday. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chamblin fulfils coaching prophecy

CFL. Coach of the year award won by the Roughriders' leader

The moment Corey Chamblin first started thinking about becoming a CFL head coach came while he was breaking down game film with Jim Barker years ago when the two were with the Calgary Stampeders.

They were watching tape during the 2008 Grey Cup when Barker, himself a former coach, was then Calgary's senior vice-president of football operations and player-personnel director. Barker turned to the young assistant and made what Chamblin thought at the time was a terribly bold prediction.

"He said, 'You'll be a better head coach than an assistant coach, and if you don't decide to go to the NFL and you stay in this league, you'll definitely be a head coach," Chamblin recalls. "And I was like, 'Jim, you're crazy.'"

But Barker's words were prophetic. On Wednesday, Chamblin was named the CFL's coach of the year.

The 36-year-old received the Annis Stukus Trophy after leading the Saskatchewan Roughriders to a Grey Cup win on home turf in only his second season with the club.

The Riders finished second in the West Division standings with an 11-7 record. They defeated B.C. 29-25 in the conference semifinal before upsetting first-place Calgary — which posted a league-best 14-4 record — in the West Division final 35-13.

That victory earned Saskatchewan home-field advantage for the Grey Cup game, which was held at Mosaic Stadium. Before a rabid gathering of 44,710, the Riders didn't disappoint, capping their season with an impressive 45-23 victory over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Before coaching jobs with the Riders and the Stampeders, Chamblin broke into the CFL as a defensive backs coach with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in 2007.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The runner-ups

Kent Austin, Hamilton's head coach/GM, and John Hufnagel, who also holds the same dual post with Calgary, were the award finalists.

Dressler gets his shot in NFL with Chiefs

The Chiefs have signed Canadian Football League star Weston Dressler to a futures contract, hoping he can bolster a relatively weak wide receiver corps.

The 28-year-old Dressler has spent the past six years in the CFL, where he caught 442 passes for 6,531 yards and 43 touchdowns for the Saskatchewan Roughriders. He caught 70 passes for more than 1,000 yards and nine TDs in helping the Roughriders win the Grey Cup last season.

The Chiefs have not announced the signing, which appeared on the NFL's transaction report.

Dressler was a standout at North Dakota but never generated much interest from the NFL. He is listed at five-foot-seven, 179 pounds.

The Chiefs could be looking at Dressler to replace wide receiver Dexter McCluster, who is due to become a free agent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Roughriders receiver Weston Dressler has signed a contract with the Chiefs in the NFL. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

4 SPORTS

Greater in Year 8?

Kaillie Humphries and Heather Moyse practise a run at the Sanki Sliding Centre on Wednesday in Sochi, Russia. ALEX LIVESEY/GETTY IMAGES

Bobsled. She's dominated the circuit since winning gold in 2010, and Calgarian says she might have another gear for Sochi

Kaillie Humphries won Olympic bobsled gold four years ago and has finished first at the last two world championships.

In what should give her rivals cause for concern in Sochi, she is just now hitting her peak.

"They say it takes eight to 10 years to build a really good bobsleigh pilot," Humphries said. "I'm at year eight right now."

The timing seems to be lining up perfectly for the 28-year-old. She has won three World Cup titles this season and is in her usual perch on top of the overall standings.

She reunited with brakewoman Heather Moyse of Summerside, P.E.I., and they opened the campaign with an impressive win in Calgary.

Triumphant underdogs four years ago in Vancouver, now they're the team to beat.

Zen in a bullet

"You have to be able to feel, you have to be able to see. So on the track walk I'm able to see things slowed down. I'm able to look at things exactly as they are."

Kaillie Humphries, on racing down a bobsled run at 130 km/h.

"She's got great expectations," Canadian coach Tom De La Hunty said of Humphries. "She's won the last two world championships. So at the top level, she knows how to deal with the pressure and the pressure is going to be great this time I'll tell you."

Humphries has emerged as one of the faces of the Canadian team in the lead-up to Sochi. It's a position she seems to enjoy.

The Canadian bobsled team attended a half-hour introductory news conference Wednesday at the Gorki Media Centre in Sochi. Humphries stayed for an extra 20 minutes, holding court with reporters in her friendly and engaging manner.

The spotlight shines brightest every four years and Humphries is ready.

"Mentally I'm stronger," she said. "Physically I feel like I'm in a great position right now. Overall it takes a whole package. It's about balance, it's not just one aspect. I'm definitely a lot more well-rounded. I still get tested, I still have my moments when I fail those tests.

"I still am learning a lot in the position that I'm in."

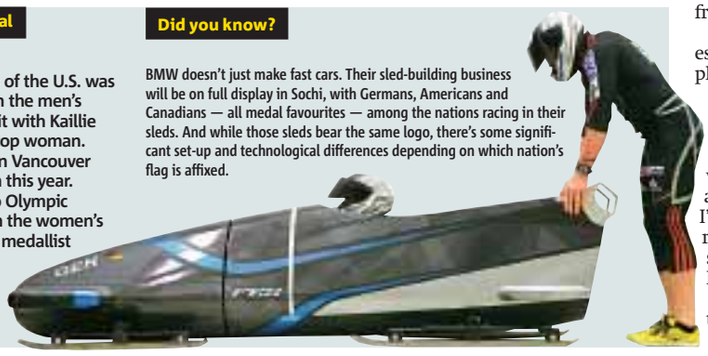
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Repeat potential

Steven Holcomb of the U.S. was the top driver on the men's World Cup circuit with Kaillie Humphries the top woman. Both won gold in Vancouver and might again this year. The U.S. has two Olympic track athletes on the women's team, with gold medallist Lauryn Williams and Lolo Jones qualifying as push athletes.

Did you know?

BMW doesn't just make fast cars. Their sled-building business will be on full display in Sochi, with Germans, Americans and Canadians — all medal favourites — among the nations racing in their sleds. And while those sleds bear the same logo, there's some significant set-up and technological differences depending on which nation's flag is affixed.



Canadian flag-raising

'Sense of majesty' at welcome party

As the sun set over Russia's Black Sea, it shined on the Canadian flag just as it was hitting the top of the flagpole with the national anthem playing in the background.

It marked an unofficial start at the Sochi Olympics for Canada. It didn't take long for chef de mission Steve Podborski to stop thinking about red and white and start dreaming about gold.

"When the Canadian flag went up, the sun is glaring on it, it blows out and you can see the Maple Leaf and I'm thinking, 'I'm sure we're going to hear more of that,'" he said. "It was really, really great."

Before the flag went up, about a hundred Canadian athletes marched into the city's international plaza. They watched the Choir of Siberia sing and dance and a Russian honour guard march beside the stage.

It was an expression of Russian culture two days before the official opening ceremony in Sochi.

"The Russians really bring a sense of majesty and something big to a ceremony like this," Podborski said. "It was really charming."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Canada is welcomed by the official flag-raising ceremony on Wednesday in Sochi. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olympic relay. Flame reaches final destination

The Olympic flame reached Sochi Wednesday, following a 65,000-kilometre route, the longest in the history of the Games.

The relay generated genuine public enthusiasm, featuring famous cultural figures, athletes and other celebrities, and drawing big crowds across Russia.

But it also has seen some spectacular gaffes, with the flame flickering out on dozens of occasions and, in some cases, even engulfing the bearers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Record-setting journey

The relay started in Moscow on Oct. 7 and stopped at more than 130 cities and towns across Russia. Along the way, the torch travelled to:

- **The North Pole.** Aboard a nuclear-powered icebreaker, the ceremony involved torch bearers from eight Arctic nations.
- **Outer space.** On Nov. 7, a rocket carried the torch to the International Space Station. Cosmonauts Oleg Kotov and Sergei Ryazanskiy then took the torch on an unprecedented spacewalk Nov. 9. For safety reasons, the torch didn't burn aboard the ISS.
- **Europe and Russia's highest mountain.** Russian mountaineers lit the torch atop Mount Elbrus — at 18,510 feet — the highest mountain in Russia and Europe.
- **The world's deepest lake.** In November, divers plunged into Lake Baikal, the world's biggest and deepest freshwater lake, with special torches burning underwater.

White's decision whack, Canadians say

The Sochi Olympics haven't even started, but the normally courteous Canadians are already leading the table in trash talk.

Canadian snowboarders Sebastien Toutant and Max Parrot both took to Twitter to criticize American star Shaun White's decision to pull out of the slopestyle event to focus on halfpipe, where he is the two-time defending Olympic champion.

"Mr. White... It's easy to find excuses to pull out of a contest when you think you can't win...," Toutant posted Wednesday after White announced his decision to sit out slopestyle citing potential injury concerns.

Parrot tweeted: "Shaun knows he won't be able to win the slopes, thats why he pulled out. He's scared!"

Both tweets were later deleted and Parrot posted an apology, saying he was sorry if he offended anyone and that he meant it's "not as fun to compete at the Olympics when the (top riders) aren't there."

Cocky Canuck

"Mr. White... It's easy to find excuses to pull out of a competition when you think you can't win."

A Twitter jab from Canadian snowboarder Sebastien Toutant at U.S. star Shaun White, who pulled out of the Olympic slopestyle event on Wednesday.

White was considered a gold-medal favourite in slopestyle, along with Parrot, the defending X-Games champion, and Regina star Mark McMorris.

There has been plenty of hype about the McMorris-White rivalry leading into the Sochi Games.

Prior to the 2013 X Games, McMorris called out White, saying "he doesn't dominate slopestyle at all."

White jammed his wrist on one jump while training on the Sochi slopestyle course, which he deemed to be dangerous. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Something will happen today that takes you by surprise but if you stand back and look at it in an objective light, you will see it had to occur. Chances are a few weeks from now, you will be glad it happened.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Do you go out and have fun or do you stay in and get work done? If you are smart — you will sacrifice short-term enjoyment for long-term peace of mind.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You have thought about what you are planning and all you need to do now is get on with it. Don't worry that certain people may not approve. Most likely they're jealous.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
As Mercury turns retrograde today don't take anything for granted. But the world should not take you for granted either. Do something out of character, something no one would ever expect of you.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Unexpected events will disrupt your routine today and you won't be happy about it. But as there is nothing you can do to change things there's not much point getting uptight about it, is there? Stay calm and carry on.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If a colleague makes an error and causes you problems today, don't make a big deal of it. Everyone makes mistakes so do what you can do make them feel better.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There will be disorder today, most likely at work. Colleagues may discover that they are not up to keeping the promises they made. You could see it coming, so you won't be fazed.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may have to be abrupt with certain people today, simply because they are too slow to work things out for themselves. Don't bruise egos for fun but make sure what needs to get done does.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
With mind planet Mercury beginning one of its retrograde phases there is simply no point rushing to get things done. In the greater scheme of things, they're really not that important.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Be careful when dealing with those whose outlook on life is different to yours. If you adopt the attitude that you're always right and they're always wrong, conflict is inevitable.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You try to be honest in your dealings but you just can't get through to people. This is likely to be a theme of the next few weeks while Mercury moves retrograde, so get used to it.

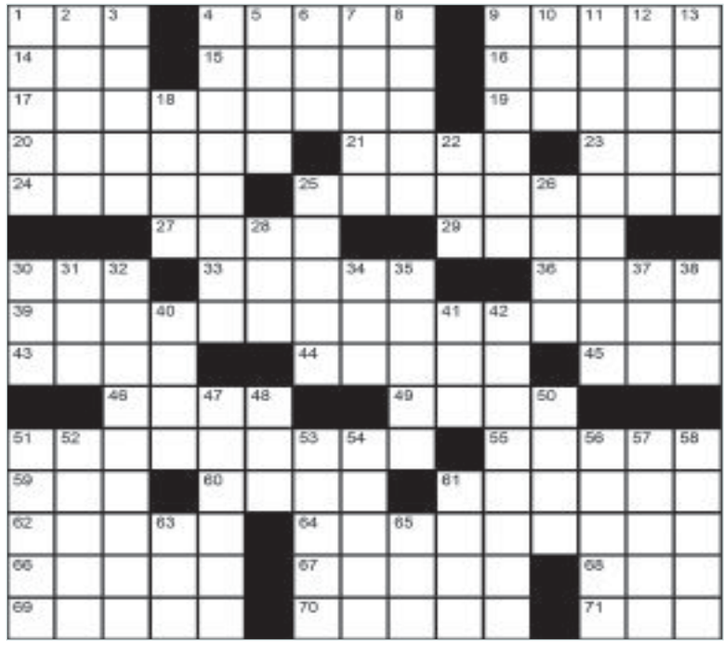
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You're hardly a decisive person and with Mercury, planet of communication and the mind, turning retrograde in your sign today you will change your mind yet again. Others won't like it but you are who you are.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



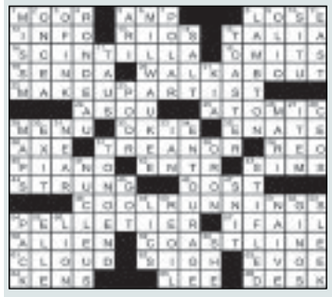
Across

1. Not near
4. Played over
9. "Batman" star Adam, and surnamesakes
14. Tenn. neighbour
15. Southwestern Ontario gorge village
16. Sir Newton
17. Wayne and Shuster: 2 wds.
19. Steamy spot
20. Geena's 1991 title role
21. Captain Hook's sidekick
23. Wine aperitif
24. Coffee brand
25. Helmet part: 2 wds.
27. Simon Cowell's production company
29. Athena's walkway
30. "__ sure be nice if..."
33. Some sound
36. Feminine suffix
39. PEI is geographically unique because it what?: 3 wds.
43. Uni
44. Also, in Montreal
45. Kit
46. "Wow."
49. Ages
51. Certain classical composer
55. Ms. Knightley
59. Marion __ (Pioneering female aviator of Canada, b.1918 - d.1995)
60. Use red pen
61. Did a sports team transaction
62. __-toothed tiger
64. Canadian actor who plays Captain Renard on "Grimm": 2 wds.
66. Carpeting 'spot'
67. "We Can Work __" by The Beatles
68. Navigator's dir.
69. Goes up-and-down in weight
70. Crowned heads in Russia, once
71. Brit's thank yous

Down

1. Actualities
2. Hawaiian hi
3. Noodle dish
4. Eddie __, Marius in "Les Miserables" (2012)
5. "Air Force One" (1997) actor Mr. Baskin
6. Towels holder
7. In _ __ (Hurried)
8. Ms. Watts
9. Most sage
10. Conductor, __-Pekka Salonen
11. Bigg Soxx: Canadian rapper on new song "Heroes" feat. Choclair, prod. by C4ENT.
12. Actress Ms. Raymonde
13. Cliff type
18. Deer sorts
22. Ells and Ems followers
25. __ _ phrase
26. Steel-__ boots
28. Lettuce variety
30. Doctrine
31. Even if, briefly
32. Splashy '80s Canadian series: 2 wds.
34. Old French coin
35. Actor, Buddy __
37. Three, in Turin
38. Ballpark fig.
40. Tooth part
41. Bear, in Barcelona
42. Hockey arena regulars, colloquially: 2 wds.
47. Martin and Charlie
48. Brick carrier
50. Char, in cooking
51. Domineering
52. Lyre-playing Muse
53. Sojourn
54. Mona Lisa's room at the Louvre in Paris, Salle des __
56. Boomtown Rats' "_ __ Like Mondays"
57. Queen: Spanish
58. Tools for woodworkers
61. Wee weekday
63. "Blame It on __" (1984)
65. "___ guy walks into..."

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	7	1	2		3	4	5	
5	2						6	8
		3	9		2	8		
	6			4			2	
		5	3		7	6		
3	4						8	1
	9	7	5		1	2	4	

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	1	5	4	2	9	7	8
4	7	5	9	3	8	2	1	6
2	8	9	7	1	6	3	5	4
7	9	2	1	6	5	4	8	3
5	1	3	2	8	4	6	9	7
8	4	6	3	9	7	1	2	5
1	3	8	4	7	9	5	6	2
6	2	4	8	5	1	7	3	9
9	5	7	6	2	3	8	4	1

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Partly cloudy
Friday
-15°/-25°
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GT model shown

GT model shown

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†0% APR purchase financing is available on select new Mazda vehicles. Other terms available and vary by model. Based on a representative example using a finance price of $25,115 for 2014 CX-5 GX (NVXK64AA00)/$26,365 for 2014 Mazda6 GX (G4XL64AA00)/$17,865 for 2014 Mazda3 GX (D4XK64AA00) at a rate of 2.99%/3.49%/3.79% APR, the cost of borrowing for an 84-month term is $2,751/$3,390/$2,502, bi-weekly payment is $153/$163/$112, total finance obligation is $27,866/$29,755/$20,367. Down payment for CX-9 is $1,750. Taxes are extra and required at the time of purchase. *The advertised price of $17,897/$13,865/$25,215/$26,465/$23,995/$30,995 for 2014 Mazda3 GX (D4XK64AA00)/2013 Mazda3 GX (D4XS53AA00)/2014 CX-5 GX (NVXK64AA00)/2014 Mazda6 GX (G4XL64AA00)/2013 MX-5 GX (L2XS53AA00)/2013 CX-9 GS (QVSB83AA00) includes a cash discount of $0/$4,000/$0/$0/$7,000/$4,850. The selling price adjustment applies to the purchase and is deducted from the negotiated pre-tax price and cannot be combined with subsidized purchase financing or leasing rates. As shown, price for 2013 Mazda3 GS-SKY (D4SK63AA00)/2014 Mazda3 GT (D5TL84AA00)/2014 CX-5 GT (NXTL84AA00)/2014 Mazda6 GT (G4TL64AA00)/2013 CX-9 GT AWD (QXTB83AA00) is $21,665/$27,857/$35,470/$34,165/$46,965. All prices include block heater, freight & PDI of $1,695/$1,795/$1,895 for Mazda3, Mazda6/MX-5/CX-5, Mazda5,CX-9. PPSA, licence, insurance, taxes, down payment and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Lease and Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers valid Jan 3 – 31, 2014 while supplies last. Prices and rates subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details.